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Urban District of Dodworth.

Annual Report

OF

ARTHUR E. WHITE, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1911.

BARNESLEY :

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1912.

Urban District of Dodworth.

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

THE CENSUS FOR 1911

Shows the population of Dodworth to be now 3,284. The population at the census of 1901 was 3,022, so that it has increased in 10 years by 262. The estimated increase by excess of births over deaths, and by building of new houses, would give a population in 1911 of over 3,700. The expected increase has, no doubt, been prevented by migration to other districts, due to the increase in house accommodation not having kept pace with the natural increase in population.

HOUSING AND SANITATION.

The number of houses built during the last ten years was 45. There are now 683 inhabited houses in Dodworth. The average persons per house is 4·8. The quality and condition of the houses in Dodworth is on the whole satisfactory, and compares favourably with what obtains in other mining districts that I am acquainted with. A certain degree of overcrowding is inevitable in a place where, as in Dodworth, the housing accommodation is totally inadequate for the needs of the workers in the district. It is rare to see a house standing empty for many miles round Dodworth. Very many men come three, four, and even five miles to work at the pits. More than half the men walk over two miles to reach their work in Dodworth. There are houses here that are not all that could be desired as

to light, dryness, sanitation, and number of rooms, but in considering these, we are confronted by the difficulty that landowners think twice before speculating in house property in a district where the prosperity and even the existence of the place is entirely dependent on one or two works, as in Dodworth. The ideal is that every house should have a bedroom for every two or three persons, should have a bathroom and a W.C., and stand in its own ground. We do not quite reach that standard, but we have few back to back houses (I believe about 20), and nearly all the remaining houses have doors and windows back and front. I think that we can look upon our housing accommodation as fairly satisfactory.

Our Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor, and supervises the erection of new houses.

In Dodworth there are 31 W.C.'s, 49 Waste Water Closets, and 221 Privies. Of the two latter I consider that in Dodworth the privies are to be preferred. Without great care and constant supervision the waste water closets get choked and are then very noisome. In course of our inspection we have frequently found them not working, full nearly to the top, and almost unapproachable for stench. I have had experience of the Duckett Closet in my own house, and found it most unsatisfactory. Where there are no children these closets may be all right, but where children have access to them they cannot resist the temptation to throw in tins and rubbish, which obstruct the mechanism. There were complaints of over-flow from one privy, but it was quickly remedied.

Every house in Dodworth, except outlying ones, is connected with the sewer. All our sink wastes are trapped.

There have been no complaints in 1911 of contamination of the Barnsley stream from our Sewage Works.

The Sanitary arrangements of practically all the houses in Dodworth were inspected in 1911. Twelve informal notices were issued, and all were complied with.

All the Slaughter-houses have been inspected. The floor of one required repairs. This has been done.

SCHOOLS

Have been visited. The only defect found was at the National School. The closets are ash closets, and some were not in working order. This type of closet, I think, is unsuitable for a school. Water closets are much to be preferred.

COWSHEDS.

All were inspected, and many found altered and improved. All were satisfactory except one, and this is not now used as a cowhouse.

There are 30 cowsheds and about 130 cows. The Sanitary Inspector visits the cows and reports to me any cows he wishes me to see. He has found them all appearing to be in good condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

There is only one in Dodworth. It is frequently white-washed.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following is a list:—

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

Private Streets Works Act, 1892.

BYE-LAWS.

Prevention of Nuisances.

New Streets and Buildings.

Slaughter Houses.

BIRTHS.

The number of Births in 1911 was 103, the same as last year, and is below the previous average. These figures are the lowest of which I have any record, as seen in the accompanying table.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 31·4. I estimated the population for 1910, reckoning excess of births over deaths and new houses built, at 3,780, which gave, with 103 births, a rate of 27 per 1,000. So that for 1910 and some preceding years the estimated birth rate has been too low. It follows also that the death rate has been higher than estimated.

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1911 was 24.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths belonging to Dodworth, including 6 in hospitals, was 73, which gives a rate of 22·2 per 1,000. This high number appears to me to be in part due to a new and more reliable system in giving returns of deaths in hospitals. In 1910 only one death was returned to me as occurring in hospital, in 1902 two, and I think never in previous years over two or three. The outstanding feature of our death returns for 1911 is the unprecedented number of deaths from measles.

The death rate in England and Wales in 1911 was 14·6.

Deaths.				Births.			
1896	89						
1899	36						
1900	51	.....	1900	106			
1901	52	..... ..	1901	129			
1902	61	.....	1902	129			
1903	66	.....	1903	117			
1904	62	.....	1904	146			
1905	52	.....	1905	111			
1906	55	.....	1906	108			
1907	51	.....	1907	128			
1908	47	.....	1908	116			
1909 ..	46	.....	1909	122			
1910	48	.....	1910	103			
1911	73	.....	1911	103			

Deaths.				
		Males.	Females.	
1904	34	28
1905	28	24
1906	31	24
1907	27	24
1908	36	11
1909	22	24
1910	34	14
1911	32	41
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		244	190	

INFANTILE DEATH.

Fifteen children died under one year of age, which is 145 per 1,000 births. Three of these died from premature birth, 1 defect at birth, 1 measles, 4 diarrhœa, 3 bronchitis, 1 pneumonia. The infant death rate in England and Wales was 130. In spite of the excessively hot summer the deaths from diarrhœa were about the average.

		Dodworth.	England & Wales.	
1896	...	295·77	...	148
1901	...	170	...	151
1902	...	147	...	133
1903	...	213	...	132
1904	...	130	...	145
1905	...	162	...	128
1906	...	157	...	116
1907	...	125	...	118
1908	...	129	...	120
1909	...	91	...	109
1910	...	165	...	106
1911	...	145	...	130

In 1896 occurred the highest infantile death rate on record in Dodworth.

LOCALITIES OF DEATHS:—

	Station Road.	Dodworth Green and Green Road.	Barnsley Road	Northfield.	High Street.	Jermyn Croft.	Pilley Hill.	Cooper Row.	Oldroyd Row.	South Street.	Snow Hill.	Silver Street.	Keresforth Road.	New Street.	Gelder Row.	Senior Row.	Gilroyd.
1900...		8			6		10					6					6
1901...					4	5					5	7					
1902..		7			8		7			7							
1903...					10	4	8			7		5	4	8			
1904...	3	4	0	2	11	4	5	2	0	4	0	5	4	3	1	1	3
1905...	4	4	2	0	10	7	2	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	8
1906...	0	0	1	2	13	5	7	0	0	1	2	2	4	2	0	0	9
1907...	2	4	1	0	11	2	4	0	1	3	1	5	2	2	3	1	2
1908...	1	2	1	4	9	1	4	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	0	1	3
1909...	0	9	1	1	8	2	6	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	6
1910...	5	6	2	2	9	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	4
1911...	3	6	2	2	7	1	6	2	0	5	3	8	3	6	2	0	7

The chief causes of deaths were : Enteric Fever 1, Diphtheria 1, Whooping Cough 1, Measles 14.

Of the deaths from Measles 6 were between two and five years of age, 6 between one and two, 1 under one year, and 1 over five. Two of the deaths occurred

in February, 7 in March, 3 in April, and 2 in May. To combat the disease the infants' departments of the school's were closed from March 22nd to May 15th. At the same time an epidemic of measles was raging in Sheffield and Barnsley and other towns and villages round, and was everywhere very fatal.

I am of opinion that the spread was due a good deal to house to house infection. Measles is not always looked upon by parents as the fatal disease it is in reality, and people will thoughtlessly and carelessly expose their children to infection, and so incur a great danger.

We had a fairly extensive epidemic of scarlet fever (62 cases) during 1911, with no deaths. We have not had so many cases of scarlet fever since 1904, in which year 104 cases were reported. In our efforts to limit the epidemic we closed one street, to which, at that time, the disease was about entirely confined, against attendance at school. In view of the extreme mildness of the cases it was not thought necessary to close the schools.

Twenty-one cases of scarlet fever and one case of enteric fever were sent to hospital.

Infectious Diseases,

	Sc. F.		Diph.		Ent. F.		Erys.		Puerp. F.		Total.
1900.....	8	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	10
1901.....	6	...	—	..	5	...	6	...	1	...	21
1902.....	18	...	2	...	1	...	7	...	—	...	28
1903.....	9	...	6	...	5	...	2	...	2	...	24
1904.....	104	...	8	...	2	...	4	..	—	...	118
1905.....	28	...	34	...	3	...	4	...	—	...	69
1906.....	46	...	16	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	65
1907.....	6	...	2	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	9
1908	18	...	2	...	2	...	4	...	—	...	26
1909.....	9	...	2	...	6	...	1	...	—	...	18
1910.....	7	...	22	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	31
1911.....	62	...	17	...	2	...	4	...	—	...	85

Factories, Workshops, &c., have been found in satisfactory condition.

PHTHISIS.

We had one death from this disease last year.

Phthisis (deaths).

1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911										
2	...	1	...	6	...	2	...	3	...	4	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	2	..	1

Last year it was decided to send phthisis cases, recommended by medical men, to a private sanatorium, at the expense of the Council. We have not yet had any recommendations. This year an act has been passed making phthisis compulsorily notifiable, and providing for the erection of public sanatoriums.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. WHITE, M.D.

Dodworth,

March 12th, 1912.